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the utility of work assigned to college students on subjects typified by the first named. On the other hand there is great danger that writing essays on ambitious subjects like the last four will abort the process of discovering the difference between knowledge and opinion, and of making progress in finding out what is involved in exact investigation

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*Soziale Pathologie.* Versuch einer Lehre von den sozialen Beziehungen der menschlichen Krankheiten als Grundlage der sozialen Medizin und der sozialen Hygiene. Von DR. MED. ALFRED GROTHJAHN. Berlin: Verlag von August Hirschwald, 1912. Pp. viii+691.

In this book human diseases are discussed with respect to their social relationships and importance. The discussion of the different diseases or groups of diseases centers about the following points: The frequency of the disease; the most important manifestation of the disease from the social viewpoint as distinguished from that which considers the individual especially; the part played by social factors in the causation of the disease; the influence of the disease on the social conditions and activities; the social effects of medical treatment of the disease; and the influence of social measures and conditions on the spread and the manifestations of the diseases.

The special discussion includes practically all human diseases, notably the infectious and the sexual diseases, the diseases of women with special reference to childbearing, diseases of children, nervous and mental diseases, and diseases of special organs. Then follows a general discussion of the relative social importance of individual disease groups, of the interrelationships of conditions and diseases, of general methods of prevention, of the problems of degeneration and eugenics.

The book deals especially with conditions in Germany, being based largely on German observations and statistics; but the facts are representative and their lessons have wide application. Exception may be taken to the nature of the recommendations for the prevention of sexual diseases, but the book in general is sound, reliable, and has a distinct value.

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